



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

In relation to: Is a response being prepared to Ms Clay's motion in the 10th Assembly calling for the development of criteria for nature reserves.

Hearing: **14 February 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **UPT 14/02/2025, p 51.**

Transcript provided: **19 February 2025**

Answer Due: **26 February 2025**

Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water took on notice the following question(s):

MISS NUTTALL: Got you. Thank you. Just a quick supp then, because you mentioned nature reserves and then not being necessarily the only mechanism that we could use to protect blocks. I understand that there are nature reserve criteria. Where are you up to in that discussion? Have they been viewed?

Ms Orr: So Miss Nuttall, going – referring back to my previous commentary around these things. As I said, it is one that is currently on my mind and it is one that I have asked officials to discuss in early consideration of a few different projects, but particularly consideration as to what we would ask an ACT government landscape architect, once we have had a chance to appoint one, to do. And potentially look at as part of a delivery of a landscape plan.

And I say all potentially because those decisions have not been made. It is more that that is the consideration we are fitting in, to determine where might be the appropriate spot to do it. It might not be that. It might be something else. But that advice is currently being thought about and coming my way as we look at it.

MISS NUTTALL: Got you.

MS CLAY: There was an outstanding Assembly motion passed, that we would have nature reserve criteria. So did I hear the answer that that is under consideration for the landscape architect and the landscape plan? And we are waiting for advice? Is that where that is up to?

Ms Orr: No, Ms Clay, I have asked the directorate, in the advice that they provide to me on various initiatives, to consider this as part of an opportunities present to incorporate it in. I think the previous motion – I would actually – I am not sure.

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MS CLAY: It was on the development of nature reserve criteria.

Ms Orr: Because we are in a new term, I am not quite sure whether that still—

MS CLAY: Would you like to take on notice the status of that?

Ms Orr: Well I think it is the clerk that needs to take advice on that, as to the status of previous terms.

MS CLAY: It was responded to by a former environment minister. I am happy if you would like to take that on notice.

Mr Rutledge: Yes, we can take advice. I think normally with a new Assembly, I am not sure of the status, same as minister. So I will check out the status and take on notice.

MS CLAY: That would be great.

Mr Rutledge: If there is a response being drafted. But I do not think a response is being drafted. I do not think anything further has been actioned. But I will look into it.

Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The then Minister for the Environment responded to the referenced Resolution via Ministerial Statement on 5 September 2024. The resolution itself is considered to be "closed" in terms of requiring further response to the Assembly.

The current Government is developing a new Nature Conservation Strategy and has proposed the establishment of a Landscape Architect. These are two possible approaches to consider the substantive issue raised.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:

By Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date:

25/02/25